

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (New) A device for cutting a groove having a substantially rectangular cross-section, with opposing sidewalls and a bottom wall joining the sidewalls, in a block of a material from an exterior surface of the block of material, the device comprising:

a base having a generally planar surface;

a handle attached to the base for drawing the base across the exterior surface of the block of material in cutting a groove in the block of material; and

first and second blades fastened to the base, the first and second blades respectively including:

first and second lateral portions generally transverse to the planar surface of the base and including respective cutting edges for cutting the side surfaces of the groove in the block of material, and

first and second free end portions extending from the first and second lateral portions, respectively, generally parallel to the planar surface of the base, transverse to the first and second lateral portions, and including respective first and second cutting edges for cutting respective portions of the bottom surface of the groove, wherein

the first and second cutting edges of the first and second free end portions of the first and second blades are generally directed toward each other between the first and second lateral portions of the first and second blades,

the first and second cutting edges of the first and second free end portions of the first and second blades are generally co-planar, and

the first cutting edge of the first free end of the first blade is offset from and at least partially located forward of the second cutting edge of the second free end of the second blade with respect to the direction along which the base is drawn along the block of material in cutting the groove.

12. (New) The device according to claim 11 wherein the first and second cutting edges of the first and second free ends, together, extend across substantially all of a distance separating the first and second lateral portions of the first and second blades from each other.

13. (New) The device according to claim 11 wherein the first and second free ends have respective first and second rear edges that are at least partially turned toward the base for lifting cut material of the block of material from the groove as the groove is being cut.

14. (New) The device according to claim 11 wherein the first and second lateral portions of the first and second blades have elongated shapes and extend obliquely from the planar surface of the base.

15. (New) The device according to claim 14 wherein the first and second lateral portions extend obliquely from the base along a direction angled away from a direction perpendicular to the planar surface of the base and toward a direction of drawing of the base across the block of material in cutting the groove.

16. (New) The device according to claim 15, wherein the handle has an elongated shape and extends from the base in a direction substantially parallel to the

first and second lateral portions of the first and second blades and generally along the direction of drawing.

17. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein the handle has an elongated shape and extends from the base in a direction substantially parallel to the first and second lateral portions of the first and second blades.

18. (New) The device according to claim 11 including a guide T having a longitudinal profile with a right angle cross-section and a crossbar integral with the profile, wherein the base includes means for detachable fixation of the crossbar to the base and for adjustment of distance between the base and the guide T.

19. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein the first and second blades are detachably fastened to the base.

20. (New) The device according to claim 19 wherein each of the first and second blades includes a first connecting portion parallel and adjacent to the planar surface of the base and extending from the respective first and second lateral portions.

21. (New) The device according to claim 20, wherein each of the first connecting portions includes a supporting tongue extending generally parallel to the respective first and second lateral portions and to the planar surface of the base for contacting and riding on the exterior surface of the block of material in the cutting of the groove.

22. The device according to claim 20, wherein each of the first and second blades includes a second connecting portion extending from the respective first connecting portion, parallel to the corresponding first and second lateral portion for releasable clamping by the base to fasten the first and second blades to the base.